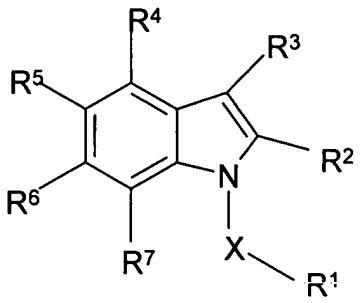
In the claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A method for treating inflammatory disease mediated by monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 and/or RANTES-induced chemotaxis, said method comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



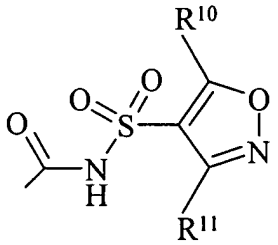
(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, amide or ester thereof; wherein

X is CH_2 or SO_2;

R^1 is an optionally substituted aryl ~~or heteroaryl~~ ring;

R^2 is carboxy, cyano, $-C(O)CH_2OH$, $-CONHR^8$, $-SO_2NHR^9$, tetrazol-5-yl, SO_3H, or a group of formula (VI)



(VI)

where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cyano, hydroxy, $-SO_2R^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl, aryl, ~~heteroaryl,~~ or haloalkyl, or R^8 is a group-$(CHR^{13})_r$-COOH where r is an integer of 1-3 and each R^{13} group is independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl; R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl, or optionally substituted aryl ~~such as optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heteroaryl such as 5 or 6 membered heteroaryl groups~~, or a group

COR^{14} where R^{14} is alkyl, aryl, ~~heteroaryl~~ or haloalkyl; and R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from hydrogen or alkyl, particularly C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^3 is a group OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, $(CH_2)_sCOOH$, $(CH_2)_tCONR^{17}R^{18}$, $NR^{17}R^{18}$, $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$ or optionally substituted alkenyl, where q is 0, 1 or 2, s is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, t is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, R^{15} is a substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl group ~~or an optionally substituted heteroaryl group~~, R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl or[[,]] optionally substituted aryl, ~~or optionally substituted heteroaryl~~ and R^{17} and R^{18} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and optionally substituted aryl ~~and optionally substituted heteroaryl~~, with the proviso that at least one of R^{17} or R^{18} is other than hydrogen~~, or R^{16} and R^{17} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms~~; and

R^4[[,]] is ~~R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently~~ selected from hydrogen, ~~a functional group~~ hydroxyl, halo, alkoxy, aryloxy, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl ~~groups~~ group, ~~or optionally substituted heterocyclic groups,~~ provided that R^4 is other than ~~a group , $OR^{18'}$, $S(O)_mR^{18'}$, $NR^{19}R^{20}$, $C(O)NR^{19}R^{20}$, $NHCOR^{18}$, $NHSO_2R^{18}$ or $OCONR^{19}R^{20}$ or~~ an alkyl group ~~subsituted~~ substituted by OR^{18}, $S(O)_mR^{18}$, or $NR^{19}R^{20}$, where R^{18}, R^{19} and R^{20} are independently selected from hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, or R^{19} and R^{20} together with the atom to which they are attached~~,~~ form an optionally substituted heterocyclyl ring as defined above which optionally contains further heteroatoms ~~such as $S(O)_n$, oxygen and nitrogen~~, and m is 0 or an integer of ~~1-3~~ from 1 to 3 ~~and $R^{18'}$ is a substituted hydrogen-containing alkyl group,~~; and

R^5, R^6, and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxyl, halo, alkoxy, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group.

~~for use in the preparation of a medicament for the inhibition of monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 and/or RANTES induced chemotaxis.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A method ~~The use~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~Particular groups~~ R^3 is ~~include~~ OR^{15}, $S(O)_qR^{15}$, $NHCOR^{16}$, $NHSO_2R^{16}$, or $SO_2NR^{17}R^{18}$, where q, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} and R^{18} are as defined in claim 1.

4. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^3 is a group of formula $-O(CH_2)_a[(CHOH)(CH_2)_b]_d CH_2OH$, where a is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 4, b is 0 or an integer of from 1 to 3, and d is 0[[,]] or 1.

5. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein R^1 is 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 3-fluoro-4-chlorophenyl, or 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl or 2,3-dichloropyrid-5-yl.

6. (currently amended) ~~The use~~ A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~where~~ X is CH_2.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical ~~compositions~~ composition comprising a compound of formula ~~(IA) as defined in claim 7~~ (I) as defined in claim 1 subject to the following provisos:

(i) when R^2 is carboxy or a salt or amide thereof, at least three of R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^3 is $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by carboxy or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

(ii) when R^3 is a group $NHCOR^{16}$, then R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl; and

(iii) when R^3 is a group SR^{15}, where R^{15} is 2-quinolylmethyl, R^2 is COOH or an ethyl ester thereof, each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than 2-quinolylmethyl;

in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. (currently amended) A compound ~~of formula (IB) which is a compound~~ of formula (I[[A]]) as defined in claim [[7]]1, subject to the following ~~further~~ provisos:

(i) when R^2 is carboxy or a salt or amide thereof, at least three of R^4, R^5, R^6, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^3 is $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by carboxy or an ester or amide derivative thereof;

(ii) when R^3 is a group $NHCOR^{16}$, then R^{16} is optionally substituted alkyl; and

(iii) when R^3 is a group SR^{15}, where R^{15} is 2-quinolylmethyl, R^2 is COOH or an ethyl ester thereof, each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than 2-quinolylmethyl;

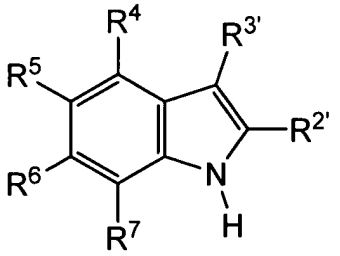
(iv) ~~where~~ when R^3 is a group COOH or CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, then R^1 is other than ~~unsubsituted~~ unsubstituted phenyl; [[and]]

(v) ~~where~~ when R^3 is a group CH_2COOH, R^2 is COOH and each of R^4, R^5, and R^7 are hydrogen, R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^6 is other than methoxy; [[and]]

(vi) when R^3 is OR^{15} or $S(O)_qR^{15}$, then R^{15} is other than C_{1-6} haloalkyl[[:]]; and

(vii) when R^2 is $COOCH_2CH_3$, each of R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and R^1 is 4-chlorophenyl, then R^3 is other than a group $CH=CH(CN)_2$.

10. (currently amended) A method of preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which method comprises reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

where R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in ~~relation to formula (I)~~ claim 1, $R^{2'}$ is a group R^2 as defined in ~~relation to formula (I)~~ claim 1 or a protected form thereof, and $R^{3'}$ is a group R^3 as defined in ~~relation to formula (I)~~ claim 1 or a ~~precursor~~ group which can be converted to a group R^3 ~~thereof~~; with a compound of formula (VIII)

R^1-X-Z^1

(VIII)

where R^1 and X are as defined in ~~relation to formula (I)~~ claim 1 and Z^1 is a leaving group; and thereafter ~~if desired or necessary~~ optionally carrying out one or more of the following steps:

(i) changing a ~~precursor~~ group $R^{3'}$ which is other than a group R^3 to a group R^3 or where $R^{3'}$ is a group R^3, changing this to ~~a group R^3~~ to a different such group;

(ii) removing any protecting group from $R^{2'}$.